

REMARKS

Claims 2-19 are pending in the application. Claims 15-17 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2, 18, and 19 stand as rejected. Claims 3-14 stand as allowed. The Examiner's objection and rejections are addressed below in substantially the same order as in the office action.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112

Claims 2, 18 and 19 stand as rejected as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is the Examiner's position that the parent claims 3 teaches that the point of introduction is at the interface of the two phases in the column while the claim 2 teaches the top of the column and is thus unclear.

Claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled and thus the rejections in regard to those claims are moot.

Claim 2 has been amended to clarify that it is the pellets that are introduced at the top of the column of fluid, not the chemicals which are incorporated within the pellets. The basis in the specification for this amendment may be found in the specification at paragraph [0032]. It is the Applicants' intent, by means of the doctrine of claim differentiation, to show that while the chemicals in the pellets are meant to be introduced at the interface within a column of fluid within a wellbore, the pellets may be introduced anywhere within the well bore and, unless they are already at the interface, by reason of their density rise or sink to the level of the interface. The Applicants respectfully assert that Claim 2 is now in condition for allowance under 35 USC §112.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102(b) or §103(a)

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) or §103(a) as being anticipated by or obvious over WO 01/94744. Claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled and thus the rejections in regard to those claims are moot.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the application is in a condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **02-0429 (194-28572-US)**.

Respectfully submitted,

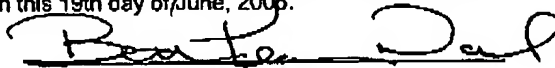
Dated: June 19, 2006



Gene L. Tyler
Registration No. 35,395
Madan, Mossman & Sriram, P.C.
2603 Augusta, Suite 700
Houston, Texas 77057
Telephone: (713) 266-1130
Facsimile: (713) 266-8510

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I do hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile, to Examiner Philip C. Tucker, Commissioner for Patents, facsimile no. (571) 273-8300, on this 19th day of June, 2006.


Beth Pearson-Naul